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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/798,020      | 03/11/2004  | Otto Schempp         | 2133.028USU         | 5894             |

7590 04/07/2006

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| EXAMINER |
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LE, THANH TAM T

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2839

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |  |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> |  | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/798,020             |  | SCHEMPP, OTTO       |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        |  | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Thanh-Tam T. Le        |  | 2839                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20, 22, 25-27 and 35-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20, 22, 25-27 and 35-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 17-20, 22, 25-27 and 35-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kline (6,899,566).

Kline, figures 1-6 show a modular electrical connector assembly comprising:

- a front face (28) with a plurality of openings (72) for receiving mating terminals (24) of a complementary mating connector (14);
- a plurality of connector modules (18) each having a dielectric module housing (86) and a plurality of terminals (88) for establishing electrical connections to the mating terminals, wherein the module housing each having a front face (not labeled), and the front faces of the module housings together forming the front face of the connector assembly;
- a dielectric main housing (16, figure 6) to which the connector modules are attached

- a plurality of signal terminals (88) that are arranged in the housing (since the terminals 88 are connected to signal terminals 54 of the header contacts 24 (column 10, lines 5-9); therefore, 88 are the signal terminals); and
- at least one ground terminal (84, figure 4) with at least a first contact section (152) and a first spring arm section (not labeled), with the first contact section having at least one first and second contact (a FIGURE A below), wherein the first and second contacts are mechanically coupled.

Regarding claims 18-20, a first guide means (74) and a second guide means (76) for mating interaction with a complementary mating guide means on the complementary mating connector and arranged on an upper face and a lower face, respectively, of the connector assembly, wherein the first guide means is attached to the main housing (column 8, lines 59-61).

Regarding claim 21, figures 5 and 6 show the modules housings each having a receptacle for detachable attachment of second guide means, and wherein the second guide means are attachable to the connector assembly at various positions.

Regarding claim 22, the second guide means comprising two separate guide elements.

Regarding claim 25, the first and second guide means form a polarity-reversal protection.

Regarding claim 26, the connector modules form a stack, and wherein the main housing is essentially L-shaped, and covers an upper and a rear face (figure 3 shows

an element 62 which is covered a bottom face of the stack, but the claim does not disclose the position of the rear face with respect to what face) of the stack.

Regarding claim 27, figure 3 shows the module housing each having at least a peg (120), and the main housing having a plurality of openings (82), the pegs and the openings forming press fits (column 10, lines 23-32).

Regarding claim 35, the first and second contacts are arranged on the first spring section.

Regarding claim 36, the first and second contacts are arranged collinearly or transversely offset.

Regarding claim 37, figure 4 shows the ground terminal is stamped and formed, and the first and second contacts each comprising a stamped projection.

Regarding claim 38, the first contact section comprising a third contact (the FIGURE A below)

Regarding claim 39, figure 4 shows the first spring arm section having first and second legs (162) and having a recess (not labeled) between the first and second legs.

Regarding claim 40, a front head section (the FIGURE A below) on which the first and second legs are connected to one another, and the first contact is arranged on the head section, the second contact is arranged on the first leg, and the third contact is arranged on the second leg.

Regarding claim 41, at least two of the first, second and a third contacts are longitudinally offset.

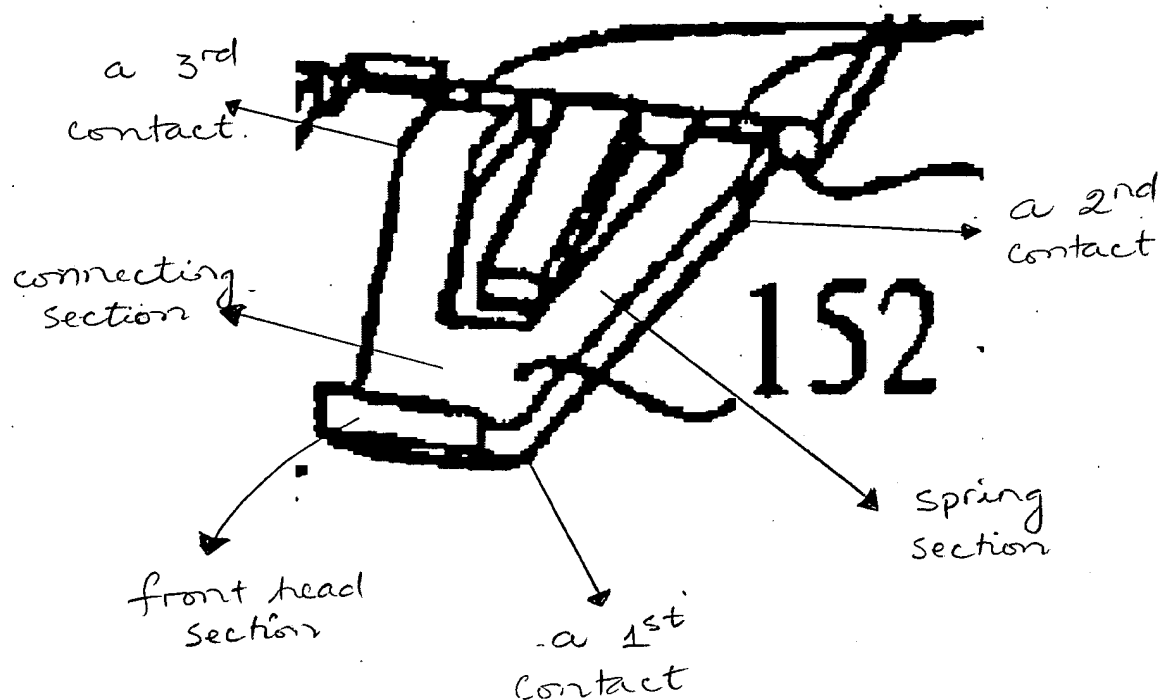
Regarding claim 42, the first spring arm section having a connecting section (the FIGURE A below) and a spring section (the FIGURE A below), wherein the spring section being inclined with respect to the connecting section.

Regarding claim 43, figure 4 shows the signal terminals are arranged in a first plane, with one surface of the ground terminal faces the first plane, the ground terminal being resilient in a traverse direction with respect to the first plane, and the head section is curved in the direction of resiliency.

Regarding claim 44, figure 4 shows the ground terminal having a second spring arm, a second contact section and a shield (154), wherein the shield being arranged between the first and second spring arm sections.

Regarding claim 45, figure 4 shows the signal terminals (88) are arranged in pairs, and the distance of the signal terminals within each pair is less than the distance between signal terminals of adjacent pairs.

**FIGURE A**



**Conclusion**

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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4. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

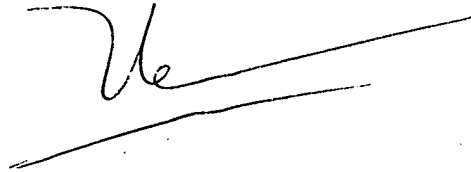
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



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7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thanh-Tam T. Le  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

TL.  
04/04/06.